

Returns to One of State's Largest Veterans Day Parades

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MEDIA, PA - Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), who spent 31 years in the U.S. Navy, joined Veteran constituents from throughout the Seventh District for the 50th Annual Media Veterans Day Parade. In meeting and recognizing Veterans today and this past weekend, the Congressman, a former 3-Star Admiral and the highest ranking former military officer to serve in Congress, spoke of the duty of all Americans to honor the brave men and women who wore the cloth of this nation. Congressman Sestak also pointed out that we must acknowledge not only the sacrifices our veterans have made, but also the challenges they face upon returning home.

"We have made the federal government more accountable for addressing Veterans needs," said Congressman Sestak. "However, we all know that with statistics such as the fact that one in every four homeless Americans is a Vet, there is more to do. We cannot be satisfied as a country until every Vet receives the benefits he has earned and the opportunity to build a successful life in the civilian world."

Among the highlights of his Veterans recognition activities, the Congressman spoke Sunday at a Veterans Memorial Service at the United Methodist Church of Bala Cynwyd.

"As we gather to memorialize those who died for our freedom, we must remember the work still to be done for those who came home," said the Congressman. "I am working shoulder to shoulder with Secretary Shinseki and President Obama to ensure that our nation's Veterans are never forgotten."

The Congressman kicked off Veterans Day with an early morning breakfast with the Boy Scouts of Chester County, where the Congressman spoke to scouts and their families about the importance of service.

At the parade, the Congressman was accompanied by former service members, representatives of Veterans Service Organizations, and Blue Star Mothers. He raced back and forth across State Street, shaking hands of spectators along the route.

“I was grateful for the opportunity to interact with so many of my fellow Veterans this past week,” said Congressman Sestak. “While we have made a great deal of progress in aiding our nations Veterans, such as passing the GI Bill, the largest increase in education benefits since WW2, or passing the greatest increase in funding for the VA in its 78 year history, there remains much to be done. On this Veterans Day, I want to thank all those who have served this nation and pledge my continued service to ensure that all Veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.